CLAIMS

1. (PRESENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising dispensing drops from a pulse jet and striking the pulse jet at least once, wherein the pulse jet comprises a chamber and a thermoelectric or piezoelectric ejector in the chamber.

2. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1 wherein the pulse jet is struck intermittently multiple times.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 2 wherein the pulse jet includes a housing enclosing a chamber and having a discharge opening for drops, and wherein the housing is struck on an outside surface with a member.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 3 wherein the housing is struck in a same direction in which drops are ejected from the pulse jet.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3 wherein the chamber is struck at a rate of 0.2 to 10 strikes/second.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3 wherein the chamber is struck at a rate of 1 to 5 strikes/second.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 3 wherein each strike delivers between 10 mJ to 150 mJ.

8. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 3 wherein each strike delivers between 50 mJ to 100 mJ.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 2 wherein the pulse jet includes a thermoelectric ejector in the chamber.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 2 wherein the pulse jet includes a piezoelectric ejector in the chamber.

11. (PRESENTLY AMENDED) A method of fabricating an array of chemical moieties on a substrate, comprising:

dispensing drops from a pulse jet onto the substrate so as to form the array; and

intermittently striking the pulse jet multiple times;

wherein the pulse jet comprises a chamber and a thermoelectric or piezoelectric ejector in the chamber.

12. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11 wherein multiple strikes are applied between the dispensing of drops by the pulse jet.

13. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11 wherein the chemical moieties are polynucleotides of different sequences.

14. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 13 wherein the polynucleotides are DNA.

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27. (NEW) A method comprising dispensing drops from a pulse jet and striking the pulse jet at least once, wherein no drops are dispensed while striking.

28. (NEW) A method according to claim 27 wherein the pulse jet is struck intermittently multiple times.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 28 wherein the pulse jet includes a housing enclosing a chamber and having a discharge opening for drops, and wherein the housing is struck on an outside surface with a member.

30. (NEW) The method according to claim 29 wherein the housing is struck in a same direction in which drops are ejected from the pulse jet.

31. (NEW) A method of fabricating an array of chemical moieties on a substrate, comprising:

dispensing drops from a pulse jet onto the substrate so as to form the array; and

intermittently striking the pulse jet multiple times;

wherein no drops are dispensed while striking.

32. (NEW) A method according to claim 31 wherein multiple strikes are applied between the dispensing of drops by the pulse jet.

33. (NEW) A method according to claim 31 wherein the chemical moieties are polynucleotides of different sequences.

34. (NEW) A method according to claim 33 wherein the polynucleotides are DNA.

35. (NEW) A method according to claim 1 wherein the striking improves pulse jet firing reliability.

36. (NEW) A method according to claim 11 wherein the striking improves pulse jet firing reliability.

37. (NEW) A method comprising dispensing drops from a pulse jet and striking the pulse jet at least once, wherein the pulse jet comprises a rigid chamber.

38. (NEW) A method according to claim 1 wherein the pulse jet is struck intermittently multiple times.

39. (NEW) A method of fabricating an array of chemical moieties on a substrate, comprising:

dispensing drops from a pulse jet onto the substrate so as to form the array; and

intermittently striking the pulse jet multiple times;

wherein the pulse jet comprises a rigid chamber.

40. (NEW) A method according to claim 39 wherein multiple strikes are applied between the dispensing of drops by the pulse jet.

41. (NEW) A method according to claim 39 wherein the chemical moieties are polynucleotides of different sequences.

42. (NEW) A method according to claim 41 wherein the polynucleotides are DNA.